

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02588 072242Z

ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8819

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 2588

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AFSP, APER, AMGT

SUBJ: RE-CLASSIFICATION OF OFFICER POSITION LEVELS - SANTIAGO

1. BY THIS MESSAGE WE REQUEST THE DOWNWARD RE-CLASSIFICATION BY ONE GRADE EACH OF THE FOUR OFFICER POSITIONS IN THE ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL SECTION, THREE IN THE POLITICAL SECTION AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR POSITION. IN VIEW OF CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES AT THIS POST WE BELIEVE THAT THESE POSITIONS ARE NOW ONE GRADE TOO HIGH WITH RESPECT TO PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES. THE CURRENT HIGH GRADE LEVELS BASICALLY REFLECT A PREVIOUS PERIOD WHEN THE U.S. MISSION WAS CONSIDERABLY LARGER THAN IT NOW IS AND WHEN U.S INTERESTS WERE PERCEIVED TO BE MUCH GREATER.

2. THE CURRENT GRADE CLASSIFICATIONS DATE BACK TO 1970 AT LEAST WHEN THE U.S. MISSION (ALL AGENCIES AND PAY PLANS) NUMBERED 322 AMERICAN EMPLOYEES. AS OF TODAY, THERE ARE 96 AMERICAN EMPLOYEES AND THE LEVEL IS CONTINUING TO FALL. SINCE 1973, STATE ALONE HAS LOST NINE POSITIONS. NOT ONLY HAS USAID BEEN REDUCED TO A CARETAKER LEVEL (FROM 23 AMERICANS IN JUNE OF 1971 DOWN TO 7 AMERICANS IN APRIL 1978 AND PROJECTED TO REACH 3 BY OCTOBER 1 OF THIS YEAR), BUT THERE IS CURRENTLY NO NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THE OVERALL LEVEL OF U.S. MILITARY REPRESENTATION HAS BEEN REDUCED AND WILL CONTINUE TO FALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02588 072242Z

3. ALSO, AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE MISSION ITSELF WAS DOWNGRADED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 2, 1977 FROM CLASS II TO CLASS III IN RECOGNITION OF DIMINISHED U.S. INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES. OTHER THAN ACTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT, THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF OVER-ALL INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES SINCE THAT DECISION WAS MADE.

4. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE MISSION'S DISMISSED SIZE AND ROLE APPLY TO THE ECON/COMMERCIAL SECTION PARTICULARLY, AS WELL AS TO OTHER SECTIONS OF THE EMBASSY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EC COUNSELOR FORMERLY HELD A VERY SUBSTANTIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN ACTIVE USAID PROGRAM, AND WAS AT ONE POINT SIMULTANEOUSLY USAID DIRECTOR. ALSO, IN CONSEQUENCE OF EXPROPRIATIONS BY THE PRVIOUS REGIME TOGETHER WITH GENERALLY WEAK AND UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, THE LEVEL OF DIRECT, PRIVATE U.S. INVESTMENT HAS FALLEN PRECIPITOUSLY FROM A RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL IN THE MID 1960S. IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE IT AGAIN ACHIEVES THESE LEVELS. IN 1970. THE EC SECTION COUNTED SIX REGULAR STATE OFFICERS, TWO AMERICAN SECRETARIES AND EIGHT LOCAL EMPLOYEES. TODAY THERE ARE FIVE REGULAR STATE OFFICERS, ONE SECRETARY AND SIX LOCALS. MOREOVER, AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, OUR LAST PARM SUBMISSION RECOMMENDED THE ELIMINATION OF ONE OF THESE FIVE OFFICER POSITIONS.

5. BY THE SAME TOKEN, A POLITICAL SECTION NUMBERING FOUR REGULAR STATE OFFICERS, TWO AMERICAN SECRETARIES AND ONE LOCAL EMPLOYEE AT A CLASS III MISSION DOES NOT REQUIRE THE HORSEPOWER IMPLIED BY THE CURRENT POSITION GRADE LEVELS. INDEED, IN RECENT YEARS, THESE OFFICER POSITIONS HAVE BEEN FILLED QUITE COMPETENTLY BY OFFICERS WITH LOWER PERSONAL RANKS IN ALMOST EVERY CASE. THE CURRENT COUNSELOR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SANTIA 02588 072242Z

IS AN FSO-3, AS WAS HIS PREDECESSOR, AND BOTH HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION ADMIRABLY. ONE AGAIN, AS IN THE CASE OF THE ECONOMIC SECTION, OUR LAST PARM RECOMMENDED A REDUCTION OF ONE OFFICER POSITION FROM THE CURRENT LEVEL.

6. CONSISTENT WITH THE REDUCTION OF POSITION LEVEL FOR THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR POSITIONS, AND IN KEEPING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS, THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR POSITION SHOULD ALSO BE RE-CLASSIFIED ONE LEVEL LOWER. TWO AMERICAN OFFICER POSITIONS HAVE BEEN LOST FROM THIS SECTION DURING THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF IN RECOGNITION OF THE DECLINING SIZE OF THE MISSION AND FURTHER REDUCTIONS COULD OCCUR IN THE COMING YEAR. THE RANGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES OFFERED AN EXPERIENCED CLASS 2 OFFICER AT A POST THAT HAS AND CONTINUES TO DECLINE IN SIZE SO DRASTICALLY IS LESS CHALLENGING AND REPRESENTS AN UNNECESSARY LUXURY FOR A CLASS III MISSION.

7. SPECIFICALLY, WE REQUEST THAT THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS BE RE-CLASSIFIED AS INDICATED:

GRADE CURRENT RECOMM.

OF POSITION POSITION

POS. TITLE AND INCUMBENT INCUMBENT & CLASS. LEVEL

20-010, ECON/COMM. COUNSELOR 0-3 0-2 0-3

KENNEDY, MOORHED

20-091, COMMERCIAL OFFICER

LACEY, DAVID C. 0-4 0-3 0-4

21-108, TPO

DLOUHY, DAVID 0-6 0-4 0-5

20-067, ECON/COMM OFFICER

FLOWER, LUDLOW 0-3 0-3 0-4

10-123, POL. COUNSELOR

SERVICE, ROBERT 0-3 0-2 0-3

10-138, POL. OFFICER

CLARE, DANIEL 0-4 0-3 0-4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02588 072242Z

12-169, LABOR/POL. OFFICER

ARCHER, EDWARD 0-5 0-3 0-4

50-158, ADMIN. COUNSELOR

NELSON, ROY 0-2 0-2 0-3

8. THIS REQUEST POSITION RE-CLASSIFICATION IS MADE

SEPARATELY AND ON ITS OWN MERIT. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE
REVIEWED TOGETHER WITH OUR PROPOSAL FOR A REORGANIZATION OF
THE ECONOMIC SECTION AS CONTAINED IN SANTIAGO 2589.

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